

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Applicant has amended the claims to correct the antecedents for the first and second linkages. The Applicant therefore submits that the claims now comply with the second paragraph of §112.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-12, 21-24, 26-32 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paulos in view of Pin, and in further view of Skaar. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the references when combined must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP §2143. The claims recite an arm with an actuator that can move a second linkage relative to a first linkage in two different degrees of freedom in two different modes. Neither Paulos, Pin or Skaar disclose this limitation.

The Examiner states that Section 4.5 of Paulos discloses moving a second linkage relative to a first linkage in two degrees of freedom in two different modes. Paulos merely states that the pointer has two degrees of freedom. Paulos does not disclose one degree of freedom in a first mode and a second degree of freedom in a second mode provided by the same actuator of the arm as recited in the claims of the above entitled application. The Applicant is not merely reciting an arm with two degrees of freedom. What is claimed is an actuator that can operate in two distinct modes. In one mode, the second linkage can move relative to the first linkage in a first degree of freedom, and in a second mode the second linkage moves in a second degree of freedom. By way of example, page 9 of the above entitled application discusses an actuator 80 that can pivot a second linkage about an elbow axis 84 in a first mode, and causes a sliding movement of a second linkage along axis 85 in a second mode. Paulos does not disclose an actuator that can provide two modes in two different degrees of freedom in an arm. For this

reason, the combination of Paulos, Pin and Skaar do not disclose every limitation of the claims.

The Applicant therefore submits that the claims are patentably distinct from the cited art.

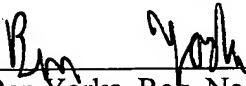
In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-16, 21-24, 26-32, and 34-36 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

IRELL & MANELLA LLP

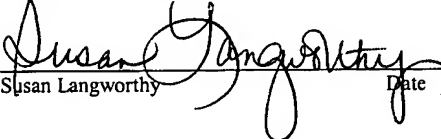
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Susan Langworthy Date May 9, 2006